

**CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES
April 18, 2007
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA**

The meeting of the California High-Speed Rail Authority was called to order on April 18th at 10:12 a.m. at the Sacramento Council of Governments Building in Sacramento, CA.

Members Present: Quentin Kopp, Chairman
Donna Andrews
David Crane
Rod Diridon, Sr.
Kirk Lindsey
Curt Pringle
Lynn Schenk
T.J. Stapleton

Opening Comments

Chairman Kopp welcomed the audience to today's meeting.

Approval of Meeting Minutes for the following Authority Meetings:

Chairman Kopp presented the minutes from the March 2, 2007 meeting for approval. Member Schenk moved to approve the March 2nd minutes, Member Crane seconded, which carried 8-0.

Authority Members' Meetings for Compensation

Chairman Kopp presented the list of meetings for compensation for approval. Member Pringle moved to approve the list of meetings for compensation, Member Crane seconded, which carried 8-0.

Member Reports

Chairman Kopp reported that the Bay Area Council had a Transportation Committee Meeting with high-speed rail on the agenda. Chairman Kopp reported that after a presentation by Deputy Director Dan Leavitt and Assembly Member Fiona Ma, the Committee adopted a resolution supporting the high-speed rail project. Chairman Kopp reported that he would like to see similar resolutions passed by similar agencies in other areas of the state.

Member Diridon reported that the Silicon Valley Leadership Group has publicly endorsed high-speed rail, as well as, the Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority and the county and city of San Jose.

Member Diridon reported that on June 3-6, the American Public Transportation Authority is having their annual conference in Toronto. The High-Speed and Intercity Rail Committee will have a meeting during the conference and two conference sessions will be devoted to high-speed rail.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Morshed reported that the high-speed rail budget that was scheduled for the transportation subcommittee hearing was postponed. There is no new date scheduled at this time. Executive Director Morshed reported that the finance report funds left over from last fiscal year's budget and funds from the agreement with Orange County has been approved.

Executive Director Morshed reported that Assembly Member Fiona Ma has introduced AB 981. This bill is to clean up the language contained in the original high-speed rail legislation. AB 981 will also include language for the High-Speed Rail to employ their own legal staff or contract with other state agencies for legal services. Executive Director Morshed reported that Assembly Member Solorio introduced AB 1228 to change the segment between San Francisco-Los Angeles to San Francisco-Anaheim. Executive Director Morshed reported that Senator Steinberg introduced SB 372 which establishes that the Superintendent of Education, in cooperation with the High-Speed Rail Authority, will develop an inventory of future educational and vocational training programs to meet the demand of skills needed to operate the high-speed rail system.

Executive Director Morshed reported that Tony Daniels from Parsons Brinckerhoff and Morshed met with representatives of Caltrain. Caltrain is moving ahead with improvements and electrification of its system and remains in discussion with the Authority to have their upgrades be coordinated with high-speed rail.

Executive Director Morshed reported that he met with Assembly Member Ma to discuss finding funding to move the high-speed rail project forward. Executive Director Morshed reported that, with the assistance of Member Schenk, he had a meeting with Senator Torlakson to discuss support for the high-speed rail project.

Executive Director Morshed reported that the speed record set by the TGV high-speed rail train in France has created media attention for the California High-Speed Rail project and some of the footage used by media sources was from the visual simulation created for California High-Speed Rail.

Executive Director Morshed reported that the next board meeting for the Authority is scheduled for May 23, 2007. The meeting should have an item on the agenda for the draft EIR for the Bay Area. Executive Director Morshed suggested that the May Board Meeting should be held in the Bay Area because of the potential local interest in the draft EIR for the Bay Area.

Chairman Kopp requested that the meeting records reflect the commission members' condolences and sympathy for Executive Director Morshed on the loss of his mother.

Tony Daniels from Parsons Brinckerhoff reported that there are currently 75 firms working on the high-speed rail project. There are 300 people working throughout the state on producing informational documents and project outreach. Over the last six months, there have been over 50 meetings with elected officials and leaders and the outreach staff has been doing a tremendous job creating the amount of media needed for public awareness. The Project Management team is right on target with where they want to be.

Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with the Federal Railroad Administration

Executive Director Morshed reported that this MOU reflects the cooperative relationship the Authority has with the Federal Railroad Administration. The work with the Federal Railroad Administration will assist the Authority in making sure that the EIRs developed by the Authority will be consistent with the Federal rules and guidelines for environmental impact analysis. Executive Director Morshed requested the board to approve, and to authorize him on behalf of the Authority to execute, a new MOU with the Federal Railroad Administration providing for the preparation of joint project-level environmental documents for the high-speed rail system. Member Crane moved to approve the Executive Director's request, Member Pringle seconded, which carried 8-0.

Preliminary Financing Options

Sasha Paige of Infrastructure Management presented information on the preliminary financing options for the high-speed rail project. Mr. Paige informed the board that the options are still a work in progress and more details will be presented in the next few months. Mr. Paige was joined by Barbara Lloyd with Lehman Brothers and William Ankner of Transportation Solutions.

Member Crane reminded the consultants that the ideas of how to finance the project need to be in place before the Authority moves forward with the project.

The consultants informed the board that upon the identification of the preferred alignment for the Bay Area to Central Valley portion of the system and the completion of the revised ridership forecasts, the next few months would be spent developing a financial plan.

Project Staging

Executive Director Morshed commented to the board that it is important to realize that this project spans over 700 miles and is estimated to cost \$40 billion. A project like this has never been done before. The board members had asked to see some more detailed segment information and those have been put together in a series of segments. There are many factors in determining

segments and the presentation will include only a few of the many possibilities. The numbers are rough as of today and the Authority has not completed the Bay Area EIR/EIS or determined the preferred alignment. The revenue and ridership will be based on 2020 projections.

Chairman Kopp directed the project staging be placed on the calendar and the staff report funding options for several segments.

Public Comment

Mayor Gamboa, Visalia

Mayor Jesus Gamboa commented that the city of Visalia is a strong supporter of the high-speed rail project and would like to see a stop in Visalia. Mayor Gamboa commented that the city share its commitment into the county and would like to remain a part of the discussions.

Member Pringle requested the board move to support bills AB 981 and SB 372 and AB 1228 be supported after a closer inspection, Member Lindsey seconded, which carried 8-0.

Meeting adjourned at 12:39